

# Safe Fishing and Boating

**For many people, fishing offers the perfect combination of sport and relaxation. According to the American Sport fishing Association, some 50 million U.S. anglers contribute more than \$125 billion to the economy each year.**

**Careful casting is key to keeping hooks where they belong. Fly casters need up to 30 feet behind them, and bait casters also need clear side space, depending on whether they're right- or left-handed.**

**It's the caster's responsibility to make sure he or she has enough room to cast safely, but bystanders should also watch where others are casting.**



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**Problems can also arise when an angler's cast "catches" a nearby tree, bush or root. Many people will try to snap the hook free to avoid cutting the line and losing the hook. Unfortunately, that wild "snapback" motion might cause you to hook yourself or a friend.**

**There are several methods for removing imbedded hooks, all of which require an extra helping of common sense. If you have any doubts about attempting to remove it yourself, seek medical attention immediately.**



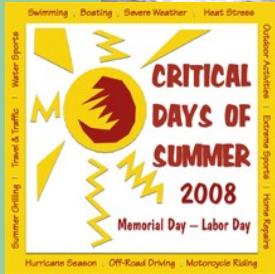
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**Some species of fish have spines that can cause havoc on the hands of an unprepared angler. Among the most common are catfish, bullhead and walleye.**

**All fish -- with or without spines -- can be harmful if eaten raw. The increasing popularity of seviche, a marinated raw fish recipe from Latin America, has left some anglers with intestinal parasites that can be difficult for doctors to identify and treat.**

**Play it safe and always cook your catch thoroughly.**

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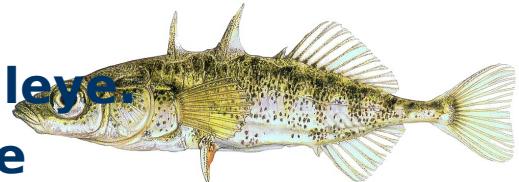
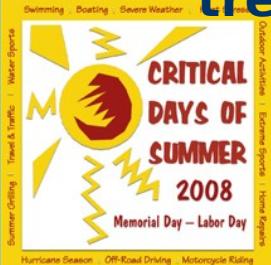


Plate 35 Threespine stickleback

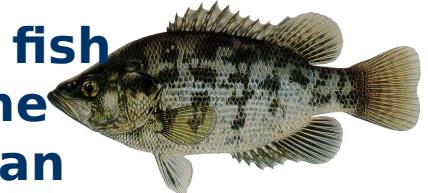


Plate 36 Sacramento perch

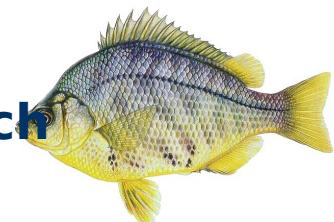


Plate 37 Tule perch

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**Remember that fishing isn't only about catching fish.**

- When choosing a site to go fishing, gather information beforehand.
- Local stores generally have coastal maps and pamphlets to guide you on safe locations.
- Talk to local people, they will know of the best places to fish as well as dangerous and hazardous areas.
- When choosing locations for rock, ledge or tidal estuary fishing, take extra care and time judging tidal, sea, access and escape conditions

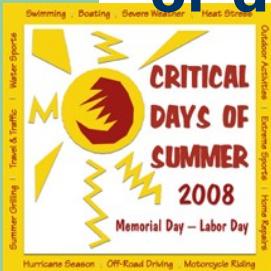


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**Avoid conditions that endanger firm footing such as strong river flow or surf conditions.**

- **DO NOT FISH IN RIP CURRENTS.**
- **Do not wear waders when rock or ledge fishing.**
- **Wear a supplementary wide belt to seal your waders at the waist, Velcro style is recommended.**
- **Do not use drugs or drink alcohol when boating. Over half of all drowning victims were using alcohol or drugs.**

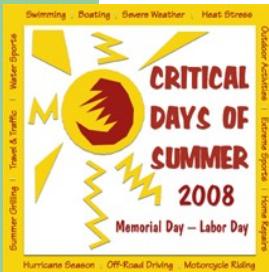


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## A Checklist for Safe Fishing

- **Fishing license. Some states permit children under 16 to use an accompanying adult's license. Call your state's Department of Natural Resources.**
- **Hook extractor, wire cutter or needle-nose pliers**
- **Net -- so you don't have to lean over the water**
- **Hat, sunscreen and sunglasses**
- **Personal flotation device**



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## A Checklist for Safe Fishing

- Proper shoes or boots, especially if you're wading, do not wear waders on any vessel, even for a short trip.
- First-aid kit, including adhesive bandage strips and disinfectant when an emergency happens, you don't want to have to go back to shore to get something you forgot.
- Cellular phone for outgoing emergency calls
- Radio -- so you can monitor weather reports
- Drinking water
- Know how to properly use the rescue devices.



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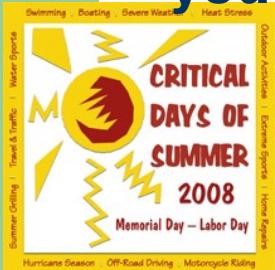
- Make sure all required equipment is in the boat before going away from the dock or pier.
- Stay seated as much as possible while in a boat.
- Never overload a boat. Know how much weight your boat can safely carry & always evenly distribute your load.
- Remain a safe distance from low water dams & other restricted areas



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- **Keep your eyes on the weather. Leave the water before storms arrive.**
- **If caught in a storm, make sure your PFD is on & cautiously travel to shore & beach the boat if you have too.**
- **Travel slowly in shallow areas & areas of flooded trees.**
- **When traveling at night, be sure your running lights are on so others can see you.**



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